

Running Late

LCDR R. C. Richards
Command Chaplain

I usually walk pretty fast most of the time. Very rarely will you see me taking a leisurely stroll. In fact, when I am walking with my wife, sometimes she will just stop and look at me and ask why I'm running off. I don't mean to run off and leave her. I just walk fast.

I'm not sure why I walk so fast most of the time. However, occasionally, I am running late for something and will pick up the pace just a little, though usually not much. I usually go fast enough that to go any faster would make me move at a trot. I like to arrive at most things early and feel a little bit of anxiety when I have to show up at the last minute or late.

When I am late, I usually will focus intently on getting where I am supposed to be. In fact, I become so focused, I will sort of tune everything else out. I will unintentionally fail to see anyone else around and sometimes fail to hear people when they speak to me.

Recently, I was in a store in town, and was trying to hurry. I had left my wife at the mall doing something, while I ran to one store to pick something up. I had another store to stop by before I was to pick her back up at the mall. I didn't want to keep her waiting, so I was intent on trying to get done.

I vaguely sensed that someone had spoken to me, but really don't think I heard anyone speak. I stopped and looked around and a friend of mine was speaking to one of the members of the band. Both of them had spoken as I hurried by, but I had failed to hear either one of them. I apologized to both of them for not hearing them speak, then visited briefly with them and we each headed our own ways.

Sometimes, we get so busy in life that we sort of tune out anything else around. We hurry through our day and focus intently on all of the things we are trying to do. In fact, we frequently get so caught up in what we are doing, that we seem to adopt a lifestyle of hurry, never hearing what is going on around us.

It is important to occasionally stop and lay our tasks aside. Sometimes, we need to pause briefly and make sure someone isn't trying to get our attention as we hurry along. In fact, the Psalmist says to, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) He exhorts us to cease from all other activities and focus on God's supremacy. It is more than stop and smell the roses. It is a reminder that we should never be so busy or so rushed that we don't have time to stop and give God his proper attention in our lives.

Slow down and give your full attention to God. He may be trying to speak to you. Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.